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market, they at least increased both her ability and her disposition to defend her subjects overseas.

Dr. Wertenbaker overemphasizes the supposed unhappy influence of the charter of 1606. The misfortunes that marred the first period of settlement would have occurred under the operation of any charter, however liberally and thoughtfully drafted, for they were really due to the Englishmen's complete ignorance at the start of the fundamental economic and sanitary principles of colonization, which they were so soon to learn from harsh practical experience.

Why was it that Berkeley, who failed so egregiously, and was detested by so many during his last administration, was so successful and so popular during his first? The contrast offers one of the problems of colonial history, upon which the present volume throws no satisfactory light. The author, however, does show very clearly for the first time why it was that such zealous reactionaries as the Robert Beverley of 1676 became such firm and such self-sacrificing supporters of the rights of the assembly and the people in after years.

It is a proof of Dr. Wertenbaker's ability to write history on a more ambitious scale, that the most admirable part of the present work is the only part in which he has permitted himself to enter at great length into details. The description of the Rebellion of 1676 is a complete one of every side of that dramatic movement. All the facts have been drawn from the original documents; and they are pieced together with such scholarly thoroughness and with such excellent literary skill, that it can be correctly said that the author has produced the most authoritative as well as the most interesting account of those stirring events yet written. No longer can it be asserted, as it has been by some historians of the period, that the causes of the rebellion are veiled in obscurity. They are brought out in these pages with remarkable force and vividness; and have really become more intelligible to us than the different reasons for friction which led up to the Revolution one hundred years later, although the latter movement, owing to its greater importance from every point of view, has naturally received far more attention.

PHILIP ALEXANDER BRUCE.

Narratives of the Witchcraft Cases, 1648-1706. Edited by GEORGE L. BURR, LL.D., Litt.D., Professor of Medieval History, Cornell University. [Original Narratives of Early American History, edited by J. Franklin Jameson.] (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1914. Pp. xviii, 467.)

TWO-THIRDS of this volume, exclusive of the index, are filled with the literature of the Salem delusion alone. Substantially the same proportion of space is devoted to the writings of the Mathers, father and son, and of their courageous critic, Robert Calef. Professor Burr has evidently disposed finally of the ancient doubt whether the champion of

sanity and justice was the junior or senior Robert Calef. The facsimiles of the signatures of the two men, reproduced here (opposite p. 292), clinch the argument in favor of the father.

This collection of narratives contains several which have become very rare and even unprocurable. Among these little-known narratives are Richard Chamberlain's *Lithobolia, or the Stone-throwing Devil*, published in 1698, and relating the antics of Satan at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, sixteen years earlier; also Thomas Brattle's *Letter* about the Salem excitement in 1692; and the *Modest Inquiry into the Nature of Witchcraft*, by Rev. John Hale, minister at Beverly, written in 1697-1698, and not published until 1702, after the author's death. Mr. Hale was among the ministers who promoted the Salem trials. When his own wife was accused of witchcraft he entertained doubts and began to suspect the nature of the popular delusion. This pamphlet in either its original edition or in its only reprint prior to this one (Boston, 1771) is a great rarity.

But the greatest contribution which this volume makes to the student of witchcraft in America is the initial publication of a manuscript by Cotton Mather entitled "A Brand pluck'd out of the Burning". The "brand" was one Mercy Short of Boston whose bewilderments were sympathetically watched by Mr. Mather during the fall and winter of 1692-1693, and after his custom minutely described in this manuscript, which was circulated among his friends. It lay among the papers in possession of his family until 1814 when his granddaughter presented it with many other manuscripts to the library of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, where it is now preserved. Mr. Mather's later narrative, entitled "Another Brand pluckt out of the Burning", the story of Margaret Rule's encounters with the devil (September, 1693), was published by Robert Calef with his comments in *More Wonders of the Invisible World*, which is reproduced here; but this story of Mercy Short comes as a message direct from Cotton Mather's mouth, and reveals, if that were necessary, the positive personality of the man, his mingled erudition, simplicity, and vanity.

These narratives have been wisely so arranged as to preserve the general effect of a chronological sequence. First, the fifth chapter of Rev. Increase Mather's *Essay for the recording of Illustrious Providences* relates certain "Preternatural Happenings in New England" between 1662 and 1683.

Next follow the New York cases of Ralph and Mary Hall at Setauket (Brookhaven, Long Island) in 1665, and of Katharine Harrison of West Chester in 1670.

Chamberlain's stone-throwing devil at Portsmouth, 1682, is then introduced, and that is followed by two stories from Pennsylvania, one of 1684, the other of 1701. Cotton Mather's *Memorable Providences relating to Witchcrafts and Possessions* tells of various wiles of the Great Adversary, but chiefly of his persecution of the Goodwin children at Boston in 1688-1689.

All the rest of the volume is filled with the narrative of 1692-1693 with the exception of the last ten pages, devoted to the case of Grace Sherwood in Virginia, in 1706.

Perhaps the only prominent case of colonial witchcraft which is not represented among these narratives is the trial, or rather trials, of Mrs. Elizabeth Godman at New Haven, first in 1653 and again in 1655. The story is fully told in the records of that colony (II. 29-36, 151-152), and consequently it may have been considered as not strictly a narrative, but rather a court record.

Inasmuch as Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia are so directly identified with the stories of delusion here given, it may be proper to remind the reader of a fact which the arrangement of selections does not make plain, that before the outbreak at Salem, the largest number of accusations of witchcraft had been made among the settlers of what is now Connecticut, and that the rulers of New Haven evinced, in such circumstances, a spirit of unusual moderation and common sense. The first victim of this superstition in New England was Alse Young, hanged at Hartford, May 26, 1647.¹ Professor Burr embodies this fact in a foot-note on page 408, but the name of the sufferer is not in the index, which in general is admirably thorough. On page xvii of the introduction it will be observed that in the parenthetical reference to "pp. 247 ff.", the number should be 255 ff.

Professor Burr's editing is all that could be desired. The notes are copious, accurate, and illuminating wherever light is needed. The student who joins these narratives to the records printed in Upham's *Salem Witchcraft*, Woodward's *Records of Salem Witchcraft*, and in the brilliant discussions of A. C. Goodell and G. H. Moore, will have before him the materials for a fairly complete history of New England witchcraft delusions.

Professor Burr intimates, moreover, that when the publication, *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, now appearing under the able editorship of Mr. George Francis Dow, reaches the era of the frenzy of 1692-1693, all the documents that exist concerning the delusion in Salem and vicinity will be put in print in that work.

C. H. LEVERMORE.

Narratives of the Indian Wars, 1675-1699. Edited by CHARLES H. LINCOLN, Ph.D. [Original Narratives of Early American History.] (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1913. Pp. xii, [1], 316.)

THERE are seven reprints in this volume on the Indian wars of New England from 1675 to 1699; being a selection of the rare Indian narratives sedulously sought for by collectors. No. 1 is *A Relacion of the*

¹ Between this event and the last indictment in Connecticut in 1697 there were in that colony 28 accusations of witchcraft and 9 executions. The last execution was that of Mary Barnes of Farmington in 1663.